

**Missouri Assessment Program
Spring 2005**

Communication Arts

Rangefinders for Released Writing Prompt

Grade 7

WRITING

Directions

Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

Then use the separate paper your teacher has given you for your prewriting activity (such as brainstorming, listing, freewriting, clustering, mapping, or drawing).

After you finish your prewriting activity, write your first draft on the separate paper your teacher has given you. Look back at your prewriting activity for ideas.

Writing Prompt

The passages you read involve individuals with strong character traits. In life, people need strong character traits to face many challenges. Write a paper to a classmate that explains the character traits needed to meet challenges.

Go On ►

The topic of this paper is what strong character traits are needed to meet challenges. Three strong character traits I think are good character traits are bravery, patience, and being responsible.

Bravery is a very significant character trait. Being brave involves facing your challenge. You must not be scared to face your dispute. Being brave also involves standing up to your challenge with no fear the best you can. Being brave means to meet your struggle no matter how great the struggle is and no matter how much it seems you can't get through it. Being brave also involves standing up for what you believe is right or wrong to do when faced with a challenge. Sometimes you need to defend what you accept in when others say it is wrong when you think it is right and that takes bravery. Bravery also involves helping others out when they are having problems with a situation. Sometimes other people's seem difficult to deal with and if you have bravery, you will

help them out even if it seems too hard for you to handle too.

Another consequential character trait is patience. Not a lot of people have good patience so it's a rare trait to have. Having patience involves waiting for a challenge to come. Some people want a difficult challenge so if they have good patience, they can wait long enough for a hard enough challenge to come. Having patience also involves waiting and working long and hard on a difficult challenge. Some people might lose control because it takes them so long to get through a difficult challenge. Patience also involves bearing difficult paths and trials that may come when caught up with a challenge. Those who can't bear paths and trials become feeble and can't take care of the challenge. Patience also involves bearing trials and paths in a calm way with no complaints. You probably want to show people how painful it is to bear a challenge and so you want them to feel sorry for you. That means you have no patience. Patience also includes thinking and getting through a challenge the right way instead of being hasty and getting

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through it without giving it thought and it comes out being immoral.

Being responsible is another important character trait to have. Being responsible involves doing your part in getting through a challenge instead of letting others do it for you. It also involves doing the good thing to get through a struggle. You also need to take responsibility when you face a challenge and letting someone else get through it for you. If you are not responsible, then if a challenge comes and no one there to help, you won't know what to do. So you need to be responsible for doing your job and your things because these are the things you need to do.

In conclusion, there are many different strong character traits that some people have or need to have to face challenges. Some of these traits are bravery, patience, and being responsible.

Doc. ID 1147169514 Score Pt. 4+

Content

- Contains a strong controlling idea (three strong character traits)
- Clearly addresses the topic with specific and relevant details (meet your struggle no matter how great the struggle, having patience involves working long and hard on a challenge).

Organization

- Has an effective beginning, middle, and end. The beginning identifies three good character traits. The middle develops each of the three traits. The ending summarizes the main idea but could be more developed.
- Uses paragraphing appropriately (each paragraph has a central point)
- Progresses in logical order
- Uses effective cohesive devices. Uses some transitions (also, another, in conclusion). Uses parallel structure. The intro. states that three important traits are bravery, patience, and being responsible. Each of the next paragraphs develops these ideas.

Style

- Contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure ("Not a lot of people have good patience, so it's a rare trait to have," "If you are not responsible then...").
- Uses vivid language (consequential, rare, feeble, hasty).
- Clearly shows an awareness of audience ("you probably want to show people how painful..." and "if you are not responsible...").

Conventions

- Contains few errors

Dear classmate Jordan,

In life you will be faced with many challenges. You will need to have strong character traits. I do not mean big muscles or being great at sports; although those are great traits to have. What I mean is you need courage, ambition, and faith. All of these can help you defeat those challenges you come across.

When you are faced with a challenge you might be scared. Courage is a very important trait to meet challenges. This is so because when you are afraid to do something it might not happen. If you worry all the time about what might happen, you won't have time to meet this challenge. Never be afraid of what might happen.

A challenge can be hard to defeat sometimes. When you are

ready to face a challenge you will need ambition. Ambition means you greatly desire to succeed at overcoming this challenge. If you think you can do something & want it bad enough it could happen. It is like the story The Little Engine That Could. He wanted it so bad and worked hard, it happened.

The third trait you will need is faith. That is very important when faced with a challenge. If you have a challenge believe in yourself. Faith can help you with the first two traits also. Having faith can help you overcome anything.

Challenges can be hard to overcome. You can make it easier by having courage, ambition, and faith. Never be afraid to go for it. Always want to accomplish it. And most of all believe in yourself. All of these will help you overcome challenges.

Doc. ID 1146979088 Score Pt. 4

Content

- Contains a strong controlling idea (using courage, ambition, and faith to defeat challenges)
- Clearly addresses the topic with specific and relevant details (never be afraid of what might happen/like the story "The Little Engine That Could")

Organization

- Has an effective beginning, middle, and end. The beginning introduces the three strong character traits that you need. The middle develops each of the traits. The conclusion summarizes the main idea.
- Uses paragraphing appropriately
- Progresses in logical order
- Uses effective cohesive devices. Uses parallel structure. The introduction states that courage, ambition, and faith can help you overcome challenges. Each of the next paragraphs develops these ideas.

Style

- Contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure ("When you are faced with a challenge..." and "If you worry all the time...").
- Uses some precise language (big muscles, The Little Engine That Could).
- Clearly shows an awareness of audience (if you worry you won't have time to meet the challenge/if you have a challenge believe in yourself).

Conventions

- Contains few errors

Character traits such as kindness and strong personal beliefs are important for happiness in life.

Kindness effects many lives. If people were to act kinder to other living beings and things then life might be a little more easier to deal with. Being kind can help you meet new people and make new friends. It also helps to have a better relationship with your family. Kindness is one trait I believe that can be more effective than anything in the world these days. It can help us to face our fears head on. Some people may not agree with me, but that leads to another character trait, believing your own personal beliefs.

Personal beliefs shows a person who they are in many ways. It helps you to understand why you make some decisions and why you don't. Say, if you were to be chosen to sing a solo in your school's spring concert, what song would you pick? I would sing a song that I know, that makes me feel good, and a song that I like. That's me. That's my own opinion

and belief in life and what I would do. Others might choose put their tail between their legs and run home to safety.

Life doesn't make itself easy for most people. It throws so many fast and curve balls at you that you can't even see straight. If your parents were to loose their jobs and you couldn't pay the bills then your parents and maybe even you will have to go out into the world and get a job just to help with the family finances.

Life can always do something unexpected and drop back a little and give you a break if you know what to do. I beleive that the saying, "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade," can be said differently for some people like this "If gives you kindness then be kind." I beleive that kindness is almost as strong a character trait than bravery. Kindness can be given and received in life, it only has to be distributed to the human race, more than it is.

Doc. ID 1147003662 Score Pt. 4-

Content

- Contains a strong controlling idea (how kindness and personal beliefs affect your life).
- Clearly addresses the topic with specific and relevant details (being kind can help you meet people and make friends/personal beliefs help you understand why you make decisions).

Organization

- The paper lacks an introduction. The body thoroughly develops the ideas of kindness and personal beliefs. The conclusion is strong. It summarizes the main idea and provides concluding thoughts (if life gives you kindness, be kind).
- Uses paragraphing appropriately.
- Progresses in a logical order.
- Use of cohesive devices could be better

Style

- Contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure ("Some people may not agree with me, but that leads to another character trait..." and "If people were to act kinder to other living...").
- Uses vivid language ("put their tails between their legs" "fast and curve balls" "even see straight").
- Uses voice as a writing technique ("Say, if you were to be chosen to sing a solo in your schools...").

Conventions

- Contains some errors (effects instead of affects, then instead of than, more easier, knew instead of new)
- run on sentence (end of third paragraph)

What do character traits need to meet challenge. Is it love, honesty, hatred, good humor or dislike. Well in the next 3 paragraphs I'm going to tell you what I think a strong character needs. Then answer this question: Do you have a strong character?

One thing a character trait needs is humor. There is a saying "He who laughs last". Mark Twain wrote it. Someone with good humor can make someone feel good when they feel bad. It can also make you a good person. A person that has a good sense of humor would be a better friend than someone mean. Who would you choose? Doesn't seem like a hard question does it. Anyone would choose the person with the good sense of humor over the bully. A good sense of humor also can bring less stress to someone because it makes you more relaxed and happy.

The next thing a character trait needs is honesty. This makes a person feel more safe because they believe that this person wouldn't do anything to them because they were honest and a good person. Someone who was honest in school would probably never get in trouble because they wouldn't lie or cheat. Honesty makes more friends because nobody wants to be friends with someone that lies. You might get more privileges if you were more honest. Being honest might let you stay home more

often by yourself because you were honest. You could get bigger responsibilities like being able to get a dog.

Last but not least a character trait needs love. If you gave more love to someone in your family or anyone then they would give the same amount of love back to you. If you were mean to someone they would be mean to you. If someone died in a crash and you had a fight with them and you didn't like them you would feel really bad, but if you had a fight with them and you loved them then you wouldn't feel so bad about the fight but would feel bad about the crash because you loved them.

If you are anything like this then you are one special person, and I would like to meet you, but if you're not maybe this paper could help you out. So have a strong characteristic not a weak one.

Doc. Id 1146988104 Score Pt. 3+

Content

- Contains a controlling idea (what character traits you need to meet a challenge)
- Addresses the topic and uses relevant details (someone with good humor can make someone who feels bad feel better/honesty helps you make friends).

Organization

- Has a beginning, middle, and end. The beginning states that the writer will discuss the traits a strong person needs. The middle discusses humor, honesty, and love. The conclusion asks the reader to have strong character traits. Both the intro. and the conclusion could use more development.
- Generally progresses in logical order.
- Uses transitions as a cohesive device (one thing, the next thing, last but not least).

Style

- Contains sentences that are clear and show some variety in structure ("Who would you choose ?" and "If you gave more love to someone...").
- Shows an awareness of purpose and audience ("Who would you choose ?" "If you are anything like this than you are one special person, and I would like to meet you ")
- Uses voice as a writing technique. ("Do you have a strong character?" and "there is a saying he who laughs lasts").

Conventions

- Contains some errors (freinds, privilages)
- Awkward sentences ("one thing a character trait needs is humor)
- run on sentence (end of paragraph four)

2.19.03

Dear Eddie,

That was some story in English class about Yellow Man, huh. I liked how it had so much history and details you could almost imagine Yellow Man. In the story the main character had some pretty good traits. I feel that there are three main traits that are the most important.

Optimism is a great trait to have. It always lifts your hopes and other people's hopes. Looking at the bright side of everything helps. In the story the main character knew he didn't have anytime to hike back, so he got scared of sleeping in the woods. Optimism could have helped him get in a mind set that a night in the woods would be interesting. It would also give him courage.

Courage is another good trait. It helps the person stand up to its fears. In courage comes strength. In the story the character needed both of these to stay in the wilderness with few things. Courage is often helped by creativity.

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Creativity is a complicated trait because everyone has a different kind. Creativity helps ~~everyone~~ with almost everything. The main character would have to use creativity with the few items he had. He would need warmth, food, and shelter.

These traits are very useful and I hope you can elaborate on them on your camping trip. Keep these things in mind and you will have fun and will learn to survive.

Your Friend,
Mike

Doc. ID 1146949339 Score Pt. 3

Content

- Contains a controlling idea (there are three traits that are most important).
- Addresses the topic and uses relevant details (optimism lifts your hopes/courage helps you stand up to your fears).

Organization

- Has a beginning, middle, and end. The beginning introduces that there are three main traits that are important. The middle discusses optimism, courage, and creativity. The paragraphs about courage and creativity should be developed more.
- Generally progresses in logical order.
- Use of cohesive devices could be better (another).

Style

- Contains sentences that are clear and show some variety ("In the story the main character knew he didn't have anytime to hike..." and "Looking at the bright side of everything helps").
- Has some imprecise language (looking at the bright side of everything helps/creativity helps everyone with almost everything/pretty good traits)
- Shows an awareness of purpose (dear eddie) and audience.

Conventions

- Contains few errors (stand up to its fears)

In life people need strong character traits to succeed in life. Character traits are what you or someone is, traits display you. Some people are shy while others are bold, personalities are different. Traits such as self confidence and common-sense can guide you through life.

A life in my opinion is the period of time between one's birth and one's death. To make it through life you will need strong traits. Michael Jordan was ridiculed in his high school years, because, he stuck his tongue out when he played. His self-confidence let him succeed and play in the NBA. In the story of the yellow-man, the man used common-sense to know that he had a better chance of surviving by going to sleep, instead of risking getting lost in the dark woods.

I have said what I had to say and I included examples. Do you see how important strong traits are? Strong traits are the keys to unlocking a happy life.

Doc. ID 1147020777 Score Pt. 3-

Content

- Contains a controlling idea (self confidence and common sense can guide you through life).
- Does an adequate job of addressing the topic and including relevant details (Michael Jordan's self confidence let him succeed in the NBA/ the narrator in Yellow Man used common sense to not get lost in the woods).

Organization

- Has a beginning, middle, and ending. The beginning states that self confidence and common sense can guide you through life. The middle develops both ideas in the same paragraph. More development is needed. The conclusion also is brief.
- Uses paragraphing but could be better. The common sense idea should have been put in a separate paragraph.
- Use of cohesive devices could be better.

Style

- Contains sentences that are clear and show some variety ("To make it through life..." and "In the story of the Yellow Man...").
- Uses some vivid language (ridiculed, unlocking)
- Shows a general awareness of audience and purpose ("Do you see how important strong traits are ?")

Conventions

- Contains some errors
- run ons (second and third sentences)

Some helpful tips into making it through challenges in life are to follow directions given to you. You should always follow the rules and trust all of your instincts. Remember to re-read and rethink what you're about to do and say.

You should always stand up for what you believe is right even if other people don't agree. Don't hesitate to speak up and be able to convince other people into agreeing with you. You should always be prepared for what people might throw your way. You should also try other things not just one. For example if you lose something don't just blame it on someone that they took it, retrace your steps and you might find it.

Doc. ID 1147020953 Score Pt. 2+

Content

- Addresses the topic (making it through challenges in life) and contains some sense of direction.
- Contains some relevant details (don't hesitate to speak up/ be prepared for what might come your way).

Organization

- Has evidence of a beginning and middle. Paper lacks a conclusion.
- Shows evidence of paragraphing.
- Shows some progression in a logical order.

Style

- Contains sentences that are generally clear but lack variety in structure.
- Uses some imprecise language ("you should also try other things" "if you lose something..")
- Shows some awareness of purpose and audience.

Conventions

- Contains few errors

Dear Dusty, I am writing to you to talk about what character traits we need in life and I am going to show you how to deal with them. Let's say a teenager walks by with a pack of cigarettes and he asks you "Do you want one" and you say "No I don't smoke" and you say "No" and walk away. Then you look back and he's following you holding a cigarette in his hand and he says "Ah come on little dude it's only a couple of puffs" and finally you run until your out of breath and he is coming behind you and you look up and see my house so come over and we turn the guy that was chasing in to the police and he get 20 years in Prison.

Your Friend
Matt

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Doc. ID 1146393316 Score Pt. 2

Content

- Addresses the topic (character traits that you need in life and how to deal with them)
- Contains some sense of direction but lacks development

Organization

- Has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end.
- Shows evidence of paragraphing
- Lacks cohesive devices, such as transitions

Style

- Contains sentences that are somewhat clear with a little variety in structure ("I am writing to you to talk about what character traits we need in life, and I am going to show you how to deal with them.")
- Uses some vivid language (little dude, run until your out of breath).
- Shows some awareness of purpose and audience (dear Dusty)

Conventions

- Contains some errors (writting, lets)
- run on (at end)

Like in the story that we read the girl needed to have very strong character traits. She had to have the courage that if she got lost that she could find her way back. That if she could go in the woods all by herself. That if it was too dark to see she could sleep out there, like she did. For example if you don't have the courage to do something most likely you won't do it.

Doc. Id 1147127731 Score Pt. 2-

Content

- Addresses the topic (strong character traits such as those in the story)
- Contains some sense of direction but the examples are not developed

Organization

- Lacks evidence of a beginning and ending. The middle presents a couple of examples from the Yellow Man passage.
- Shows evidence of paragraphing.
- At times seems awkward and lacks cohesion.

Style

- Sentences lack variety in structure (repetition of that if)
- Does not use writing techniques

Conventions

- Contains errors that are somewhat distracting.
- Numerous fragments (that if she could go in the woods.../that if it was to dark...

Dear David
you will need a lot of
trust and honesty to have
good character traits. But if
you don't you will not have
good character traits to work
with. So make sure you
are trusted and honest about
everything you do.

Doc. Id 1146370645 Score Pt. 1+

Content

- Addresses the topic (you need trust and honesty)
- Generally is difficult to follow due to problems with conventions

Organization

- Has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end. Each are only one sentence.
- Lacks evidence of paragraphing but there is some evidence of a progression and working in a logical order.

Style

- Lacks sentence variety (but there are only three sentences)
- Uses some imprecise language (good traits, everything you do)
- Does not use writing techniques
- Shows only some awareness of purpose (dear david)

Conventions

- Contains repeated errors that are distracting to the reader (ownesty, chacter, shere).

In Life you need strong
character traits to meet challenges
Like if you were on a Hike
Overnight you would need strong
character traits if you got
lost you would have to
use what you have to get
thru the night.

Doc ID 1147127735 Score Pt. 1

Content

-Addresses the topic (in life you need strong character traits)
but a focus is not fully developed.

Organization

-Lacks evidence of an ending. Paper just barely starts.
-Shows evidence of paragraphing but there is only one underdeveloped paragraph.

Style

-Paper is only one long run on sentence
-Shows little awareness of purpose
-Does not use writing techniques

Conventions

-Contains some errors (where instead of were / threw instead of through)
-run on

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Most people need strong
traits to live well in life.
For example, if you are
not funny, people won't not
like you, stuff like that

Doc ID 1147102745 Score Pt. 1-

Content/Organization/Style/Conventions

- This piece does not really get started.
- There is little development and there is not enough to know what direction the paper may go in